

Overview of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Mission

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management's mission is to implement federal and state regulations to protect human health and the environment while allowing the environmentally sound operations of industrial, agricultural, commercial and government activities vital to a prosperous economy.



Indiana Department of
Environmental Management

Overview

In 1986, the Indiana General Assembly passed legislation that created IDEM as the state agency responsible for regulating certain activities that could impact human health or the environment.

When people in Indiana have a question or a complaint about the environment, many contact IDEM. However, while IDEM does have authority over many environmentally-related issues, it is not the only governmental agency to have a say in what many folks would consider “environmental matters.” There are numerous federal agencies and other state agencies with authority over environmental matters within Indiana, such as:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources;
- Indiana State Department of Health; and
- Office of Indiana State Chemist.

There are several local-level agencies (like your county health department) that also have authority over environmentally-related matters.

A variety of activities could potentially pollute our neighborhoods or otherwise affect the environment. Commercial or industrial activities like manufacturing immediately come to mind. But in addition to factories, there are numerous other activities, such as coal mines, gravel pits, grain or petroleum storage sites, car washes, confined animal feeding operations, truck and auto repair shops, dry cleaners, power plants, open dumps, uncovered salt piles, and backyard trash fires that could potentially cause pollution that is regulated by IDEM.

IDEM's Organizational Structure

The legislation that created IDEM also mandated that certain offices/programs exist. Please see www.idem.IN.gov for more information.

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■ Office of Air Quality

(317) 233-0178 or (800) 451-6027, ext. 3-0178

The Office of Air Quality (OAQ) works to safeguard the quality of Indiana's air by implementing the requirements of the Clean Air Act, developing state rules governing air quality standards, evaluating and issuing permits for construction and operation, monitoring Indiana's air quality, and conducting compliance activities.

■ Office of Land Quality

(317) 232-8941 or (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-8941

The Office of Land Quality (OLQ) is charged with protecting public health and the environment by assuring planning for, and the proper handling and disposal of, solid and hazardous wastes in Indiana; protecting the public in the event of chemical spills and other environmental emergencies; and addressing short and long-term cleanup projects at contaminated sites throughout the state. OLQ serves the citizens of Indiana through the fulfillment of its responsibilities as set forth in various environmental acts.

■ Office of Water Quality

(317) 232-8670 or (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-8670

The Office of Water Quality (OWQ) is responsible for protecting public health and the environment by assessing the quality of surface water and groundwater through biological and chemical testing; regulating and monitoring drinking water supplies (including wellhead protection), wastewater treatment facilities and the construction of such facilities; and, protecting wetlands for proper drainage, flood protection and wildlife habitat. OWQ serves the citizens of Indiana through fulfilling responsibilities as set forth in the Clean Water Act.

IDEM's air, water, and land quality programs were previously administered by the State Board of Health, which is now the Indiana State Department of Health.

■ Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance

(317) 232-8172 or (800) 988-7901

The Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance's (OPPTA) goal is to develop and foster an emphasis on environmentally and economically sound approaches to achieve environmental results. This includes proactively providing resources for source reduction, reuse and recycling, voluntary compliance, and pollution prevention. OPPTA encourages environmental results through various grant opportunities, public recognition awards such as the various Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence, broad-based educational programs, and technical assistance.

Compliance and Technical Assistance Program

(317) 232-8172 or (800) 988-7901

The Compliance and Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) is Indiana's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP), operating under Section 507 of the Federal Clean Air Act, U.S. Code 7611f, and Indiana Code (IC) 13-28-5-4. CTAP is statutorily authorized to operate under IC 13-28-1 and IC 13-28-3. CTAP is part of OPPTA.

CTAP provides free and confidential environmental assistance to Indiana businesses, universities and municipalities and proactively works with other programs within IDEM, governmental entities, and regulated entities to provide regulatory and technical outreach and assistance. In order to effectively provide the type of assistance needed by the regulated community, strict confidentiality is maintained.

CTAP has a non-rule policy document (NPD) for a quality assurance guarantee. The purpose of this NPD is to provide a quality assurance guarantee to an individual, municipality, business or other entity (regulated entities) that has received confidential compliance assistance from CTAP and upon which such regulated entity may have relied to its detriment.

This NPD applies in instances where CTAP assistance may have either directly or indirectly lead IDEM's Office of Enforcement to allege non-compliance by the regulated entity. In such instance, IDEM shall not issue either a Violation Letter or a Notice of Violation assessing a gravity-based penalty against a regulated entity upon learning that a regulated entity sought out, received, and relied upon written confidential compliance assistance provided by CTAP prior to the alleged violation.

■ Additional IDEM Offices

Additional IDEM offices include the Commissioner's Office, Legal Counsel and Enforcement (includes Criminal Investigations), and the Office of External Affairs, which includes:

- Media and Communications Services;
- Intergovernmental Relations;
- Planning and Assessment;
- Human Resources;
- Business Services; and
- Northwest, Northern and Southwest Regional Offices.

Currently, there are regional offices in Merrillville, South Bend and Petersburg and two office locations in Indianapolis (downtown and Shadeland Avenue). Each division of IDEM has field staff located at the regional offices. Also, the Compliance and Technical

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Assistance Program has at least one staff person in each regional area to provide confidential compliance assistance. For more information about IDEM, please visit the Web at www.idem.IN.gov or call (800) 451-6027.

IDEM's Virtual File Cabinet and Central File Room

■ Virtual File Cabinet

IDEM has created a Virtual File Cabinet (VFC) that can be accessed any time at www.idem.IN.gov/4101.htm. This new system has more than 27 million pages of public documents. Additional program area files are being added daily, so please check the site frequently. The VFC currently contains records for:

- Correspondence;
- State revolving fund programs;
- Contracts;
- Drinking water;
- Leaking underground storage tanks;
- Underground storage tanks;
- Excess Liability Trust Fund;
- Brownfields; and
- Some landfill files.

■ Central File Room

You are welcome to view IDEM's public files at its Central File Room located in Room 1201 of Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. The file room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding state holidays. The phone number is (317) 234-0965 or (800) 451-6027, ext. 4-0965. Please note that some items may be available on microfilm.

Important: If you have trouble obtaining public documents, contact the director of IDEM's Central File Room at (317) 234-0111. For general questions on the requirements of the Access to Public Records Act, contact the state of Indiana's public access counselor at (800) 228-6013 or (317) 234-0906, or visit the Web at www.IN.gov/pac.

■ Confidential Information

Persons using IDEM's Central File Room should be aware that although most IDEM documents are public records, there are some documents associated with specific IDEM-regulated facilities that are confidential. They are not public documents and are not available for public review. Confidential materials may include information required to be kept confidential by state or federal law, records containing commercial or indus-

trial trade secrets, internal agency deliberations, information regarding negotiations or legal or criminal investigations, and other various materials.

For a more complete understanding of your rights to view and copy public records held by IDEM and other state agencies, please refer to the Indiana state law on public records, found in the Indiana Code (IC) (available at most public libraries) under IC 5-14-3, or on the Internet at www.legislative.IN.gov/ic/code/title5/ar14/ch3.html.

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